

precincts. Her duties as Recorder/County Clerk included maintaining birth, death and marriage records for a county of nearly 10 million people and recording and filing countless property documents and statutory oaths. Her office maintained over 200 million documents, a volume exceeded only by the Social Security Administration and the Pentagon. Mrs. McCormack, a great innovator, implemented the InkaVote Plus voting system, to guide voters through casting their ballots correctly and make voting easier for the disabled, and launched a new Enterprise Recording Archive system that eliminated manual processes to increase efficiency and cut down the use of paper.

Mrs. McCormack embodies the characteristics of a highly respected public servant, humble, lovable, spirited, renowned for her skills in the kitchen, a lover of outdoors gardening, hiking, and playing with her adopted canines from the L.A. County animal shelter. Mrs. McCormack is a great role model for our young women and a workers' advocate who helped support numerous student and clerical training programs. She has participated in many charities, from the Christmas Angel Tree Program for local low income children to Aids Walk Los Angeles to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Conny has been an exemplary public servant known throughout her field for her dedication to her position, for her honesty, and for her integrity in her zeal to protect voters. A lifetime workaholic, an avid recycler, a true bargain hunter, a continual multi-tasker.

Madam Speaker. I proudly ask you to join me, her family, friends, and community in honoring Conny McCormack for her service in, and contributions to, the County of Los Angeles and other communities across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF AARP'S  
ETHEL PERCY ANDRUS LEGACY  
AWARD BEING GIVEN TO ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and acknowledge a special honor that is being bestowed on Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles, within the 31st Congressional District that I am proud to serve.

Performing arts will once again flourish at Abraham Lincoln High School after many years of absence, thanks to a generous Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Award from AARP. This grant recognizes the founding of AARP in 1958 by Dr. Andrus, who served as principal of Lincoln High School from 1916–1944.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration in 2008, AARP is awarding more than \$1 million in Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Awards to recognize excellence and innovation in education at high schools nationwide. The first of these awards will reinvigorate the performing arts program at Abraham Lincoln High School—connecting the high school's heritage of achievement with its very bright future.

On February 8, 2008, representatives of AARP, the city of Los Angeles, and the State of California will gather at Lincoln High to

dedicate a plaque at the new Ethel Percy Andrus Performing Arts Center. This center will enable students to receive pre-professional training in music, dance, theater and other performing arts.

The school will also enjoy the support of many AARP volunteers who will contribute their time and efforts in bringing the school's new performing arts center to life. These volunteers will continue the strong legacy established by Dr. Andrus of connecting all generations to work for the greater good of the community.

The more one learns about Dr. Andrus and her background and deeds . . . the more one marvels about her accomplishments and vision. In 1916, Dr. Andrus became California's first female high school principal when she was invited to head the faculty and staff of the former East Los Angeles High School. She renamed the school "Abraham Lincoln High School" to help inspire her students. The community represented a broad range of ethnicities and races—32 languages were spoken in students' homes and most families were low-income.

Dr. Andrus held her students and teachers to high academic standards. She believed in promoting creativity and fun, and fostered dances, plays, and musical performances to encourage them to pursue their creative talents, while also breaking down the barriers between students' cultures and backgrounds. She also set out to pull the community and the school together, involving parents and local organizations in many ways. At the time, extracurricular activities were rare. Where they did exist, they were considered frills of little value. Working against this bias, Dr. Andrus involved Lincoln's students in serving the community. Students worked in hospitals as nurses' aides, ran errands for shut-in residents, supervised playground activities for younger children, and formed art classes to make posters for local events.

She retired from teaching in 1944 in order to care for her ailing mother. After getting involved with the California Retired Teachers Association, Dr. Andrus was shocked to realize that so many retired educators were financially struggling because of inadequate income and health care. She established the National Retired Teachers Association in 1947 to give them a national voice, and established the first nationwide group health insurance program for its members.

In 1958, she established the nonprofit, non-partisan organization now known as AARP so that people at mid-life and older could enjoy independence, dignity and purpose as they aged. Since its founding, AARP's motto has been "To serve, not to be served." Since its founding, AARP has grown to more than 39 million members with more than 3.3 million members in California alone.

Ethel Percy Andrus passed away in July, 1967, but her legacy lives on in countless ways. I am pleased that one very special way that she lives on will be in the songs and dances of the students at Abraham Lincoln High School. I have no doubt she will be checking in on their progress from time to time and rejoicing in their talents!

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Ethel Percy Andrus embodied this clear bold statement and the students at this school carrying his name, and all of us, should also rise to this challenge. Each of us can make a difference.

I congratulate James Molina, principal of Abraham Lincoln High School, and the students and parents of this fine school, and commend AARP for giving students fresh opportunities to grow academically, creatively and personally—sharing their "Lincoln spirit" with a nation and a world that needs their intelligence, commitment and idealism.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 942.

As an original co-sponsor of this resolution, I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing the month of February as Black History Month. I would like to thank my friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN for introducing this very important resolution.

As we recognize Black History Month, I would also like to note, that we feel the loss of our dear friends and CBC colleagues who passed away over the last year: Congresswomen Julia Carson, Juanita Millender McDonald and founding CBC member former Congressman 'Gus' Hawkins. They always joined in on the celebrations. We truly miss them, but their accomplishments live on as a part of Black History and beyond.

As First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I want to take a moment to commemorate Black History Month by advocating for a greater commitment to the domestic and global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Under funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative and with our domestic HIV/AIDS programs flat-lining, data shows communities of color are increasingly bearing the brunt of the disease. Over 188,000 African-Americans were living with AIDS at the end of 2005, representing 44 percent of all cases in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In order to raise awareness. I introduced H. Con. Res. 280 to recognize and support the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and encourages state and local governments, public health agencies and the media to emphasize and publicize the importance of this day among the African American community, and all communities. Celebrated each year on February 7th, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day encourages African Americans and all Americans to "Get Educated, Get Involved, and Get Tested."

Though we recognize Black History Month this month, it is our duty to pursue policies of social justice that are fair, sustainable, and that help the most disadvantaged in our society. As an African American woman and legislator in this era of tremendous change, I am doubly aware of the obligations that we have as a community and as a country, and Black History Month and the celebration of African American involvement.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that during this Black History Month, I will continue to work with the CBC and Congress to identify bipartisan solutions to eradicate HIV/AIDS in our nation and abroad.